

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 IO-14

COME-00 TRSE-00 CEA-02 OIC-04 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0030

C O N F I D E N T I A P PANAMA 1382

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN PN IA-ECOSOC

SUBJ: 9TH IAECOSOC MEETING AT QUITO.

REF: PANAMA'S 1321

1) SUMMARY: MINISTER OF PLANNING BARLETTA INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT PANAMANIAN DELEGATION STILL INDEFINITE. GOP POSITION AT MEETING ALSO INDEFINITE BECAUSE GOP NOT CLEAR WHETHER USG IN POSITION TO DISCUSS IN SPECIFIC TERMS FOLLOW-UP TO MEXICO CITY FOREIGN MINISTER MEETINGS.

2) MINISTER BARLETTA SAID HE HOPES TO HEAD GOP DELEGATION AT QUITO BUT HE IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING OUT GOP POLICY TO ADJUST WIDE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN PRICES AND WAGES CREATED BY CURRENT HIGH INFLATION RATE. PRESSURE ON HIM IS VERY GREAT AND HE CONSIDERS ACTION MUST BE TAKEN IN NEXT 10 DAYS. IT IS THEREFORE MORE LIKELY THAT VICE MINISTER SOKOL WILL HEAD DELEGATION ASSISTED BY AMBASSADOR PITY AND ECONOMIC ADVISER.

3) ON SUBSTANCE BARLETTA CONSIDERS IAECOSOC FLOUNDERING AND NOT NOW A PARTICULARLY USEFUL MECHANISM SUBJECT AS IT IS TO DICTATES OF OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL. HE FEELS
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AMBASSADORS TO OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL UNQUALIFIED TO DEAL

IN TECHNICAL AREAS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING. HE CHARACTERIZED PERMANENT COUNCIL AS COMPOSED MOSTLY OF "POLITICAL EXILES OUT OF TOUCH WITH THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT AND REALITY." HE CONSIDERED CIAP HAS COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL STAFF BUT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS HAD ALL BUT ABANDONED IT AND NONE OF CIAP MEMBERS ARE NOW OF THE STATURE OF CAMPOS, SAEZ, GOMEZ AND OTHERS. ON OTHER HAND HE CONSIDERS IA-ECOSOC CAN PERFORM EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IF IT HAS HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND ITS MEMBERS AS WELL AS STAFF ARE PERMITTED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH PLANNING AND FINANCIAL AGENCIES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY VALUABLE IF IA-ECOSOC STAFF COULD PREPARE PROFESSIONAL STUDIES ON KEY ISSUES SUCH AS MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, RAW MATERIALS, ETC. AND HAVE THE MINISTERS DISCUSS THEM. HE SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT IA-ECOSOC SHOULD BE STRUCTURED ALONG THE LINES OF OECD.

4) I TOLD MINISTER THAT WE VIEWED QUITO MEETING AS CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE STARTED AT MEXICO CITY. HE ASSUMED AS MUCH BUT HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NOT TOLD HIM WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT MEXICO CITY AND SO HE WAS INHIBITED IN PREPARING FOR QUITO. UNLESS USG WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS HE DID NOT CONSIDER MUCH ADVANCE COULD BE MADE AT QUITO. HE UNDERSTOOD TRADE LEGISLATION WAS STILL PENDING AND I CONFIRMED THAT IT WAS.

5) BARLETTA SAID LATINS DO NOT HAVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THREE "BALL PARKS" -- ISSUES FOR DISCUSSIONS (A) ONLY AMONG LATINS (B) AMONG ALL MEMBERS, AND (C) BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND OECD COUNTRIES. HE CONSIDERED FOR EXAMPLE THERE WAS COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA ON TRADE AND MONETARY MATTERS, BUT HE WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT THERE WAS CONSENSUS IN LATIN AMERICA THAT THIS IS SO.

6) USDEL WILL FIND EITHER BARLETTA OR SOKOL COOPERATIVE AND UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POINT OF VIEW. BARLETTA ESPECIALLY IS LISTENED TO BY LATINS BECAUSE OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PREVIOUS ROLE IN WASHINGTON ON CIAP.
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